

# **St Mary's Parish Magazine**



**September - October 2019**

**50p**

## ***Thoughts on autumn:***

As we watch leaves fluttering to the ground in the fall, we are reminded that nature's cycles are mirrored in our lives. Autumn is a time for letting go and releasing things that have been a burden. All the religious traditions pay tribute to such acts of relinquishment. Autumn is the right time to practice getting out of the way and letting Spirit take charge of our lives.

Generosity has such power because it is characterized by the inner quality of letting go or relinquishing. Being able to let go, to give up, to renounce, to give generously — these capacities spring from the same source within us. When we practice generosity, we open to all of these liberating qualities simultaneously. They carry us to a profound knowing of freedom, and they also are the loving expression of that same state of freedom. Autumn, then, is the perfect season to give generously of your time and talents to others.

***Tony King***

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### Footnote:

Copies of the magazine can be posted to your home or friends and relations. Subscription rates are £6.50 for a year (6 editions), including postage. Please contact the Parish Office.

# REFLECTIONS

As a Reader, or Lay Minister, at St. Mary's I have to undergo periodic Reader Assessment. This year I was charged with writing, in a few sentences, a profile for my Church – not an easy task by any means!! As I pondered this task I was struck by what a varied wealth of talent and commitment we enjoy at St Marys.

In 2019 the Church celebrates the 50th anniversary of women being admitted to the Reader Ministry so I initially focussed particularly on the contribution made by the ladies in our Church.

Sadly there is not space enough here for me to publicly thank all the many ladies who make a significant contribution to our life at St Mary's. However the list below provides some examples of the width of service, over and above the provision of refreshments, taken on by our women volunteers with perseverance and a sense of calling:

- teaching in our Sunday School,
- participating in HOTS (Healing on the Street),
- leading our Family Services,
- producing of our monthly Prayer Diary,
- organising the Sidespeople,
- participating in the work of the Flower Team,
- co-leading the Server Team
- and taking on the role of our Safeguarding Officer.

Despite the fact that I have focussed on the contributions made by our ladies, the gentlemen in the Church, particularly the Editor of the Magazine, also do their fair share to keep the wheels moving smoothly.

Such dedication calls for all kinds of contributions from all of us. For many the tasks offer their own reward in a sense of personal achievement and development but, truth to tell, some responsibilities are undertaken more because "somebody has to do it and I can".

"Listen to my words," Christ may say to any one of us, "Come with me and I will give you the strength to overcome your shyness and become a sidesperson, or a server, to undergo training and join the intercessions team or submit yourself to selection as a Reader or a Vicar" – yes, it might even come to that.

Will we turn away or, like Peter answer, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life" It is surely this that embodies the closing words of our Eucharist 'Go out into the world in the power of his spirit to live and work to his praise and glory'.

***Doreen Mills***  
***Reader***

## **GOD'S UNDER THE BED**

My brother Kevin thinks God lives under his bed. At least that's what I heard him say one night. He was praying out loud in his dark bedroom, and I stopped outside his closed door to listen. "Are you there, God?" he said. "Where are you? Oh, I see. Under the bed." I giggled softly and tiptoed off to my own room. Kevin's unique perspectives are often a source of amusement. But that night something else lingered long after the humour. I realized for the first time the very different world Kevin lives in.

He was born 30 years ago, mentally disabled as a result of difficulties during labour. Apart from his size (he's 6 foot 2), there are few ways in which he is an adult. He reasons and communicates with the capabilities of a 7 year-old, and he always will. He will probably always believe that God lives under his bed, that Santa Claus is the one who fills the space under our tree every Christmas, and that airplanes stay up in the sky because angels carry them. I remember wondering if Kevin realizes he is different. Is he ever dissatisfied with his monotonous life? Up before dawn each day, off to work at a workshop for the disabled, home to walk our cocker spaniel, returning to eat his favourite macaroni cheese for dinner, and later to bed. The only variation in the entire scheme are laundry days, when he hovers excitedly over the washing machine like a mother with her newborn child.

He does not seem dissatisfied. He lopes out to the bus every morning at 7:05, eager for a day of simple work. He wrings his hands excitedly while the water boils on the stove before dinner, and he stays up late twice a week to gather our dirty laundry for his next day's laundry chores. And Saturdays - oh, the bliss of Saturdays! That's the day my dad takes Kevin to the airport to have a soft drink, watch the planes land, and speculate loudly on the destination of each passenger inside. "That one's goin' to Chi-car-go!" Kevin shouts as he claps his hands. His anticipation is so great he can hardly sleep on Friday nights. I don't think Kevin knows anything exists outside his world of daily rituals and weekend field trips. He doesn't know what it means to be discontent.

His life is simple. He will never know the entanglements of wealth of power, and he does not care what brand of clothing he wears or what kind of food he eats. He recognizes no differences in people, treating each person as an equal and a friend. His needs have always been met, and he never worries that one day they may not be. His hands are diligent. Kevin is never so happy as when he is working. When he unloads the dishwasher or vacuums the carpet, his heart is completely in

it. He does not shrink from a job when it is begun, and he does not leave a job until it is finished. But when his tasks are done, Kevin knows how to relax. He is not obsessed with his work or the work of others. His heart is pure. He still believes everyone tells the truth, promises must be kept, and when you are wrong, you apologize instead of argue. Free from pride and unconcerned with appearances, Kevin is not afraid to cry when he is hurt, angry or sorry. He is always transparent, always sincere. And he trusts God. Not confined by intellectual reasoning, when he comes to Christ, he comes as a child. Kevin seems to know God - to really be friends with Him in a way that is difficult for an "educated" person to grasp. God seems like his closest companion.

In my moments of doubt and frustrations with my Christianity, I envy the security Kevin has in his simple faith. It is then that I am most willing to admit that he has some divine knowledge that rises above my mortal questions. It is then I realize that perhaps he is not the one with the handicap-I am. My obligations, my fear, my pride, my circumstances-they all become disabilities when I do not submit them to Christ. Who knows if Kevin comprehends things I can never learn? After all, he has spent his whole life in that kind of innocence, praying after dark and soaking up the goodness and love of the Lord. And one day, when the mysteries of heaven are opened, and we are all amazed at how close God really is to our hearts, I'll realize that God heard the simple prayers of a boy who believed that God lived under his bed. Kevin won't be surprised at all.

*Kelly Adkins*

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A woman named Edna finds herself in dire trouble. Her business has gone bust and she's in serious financial trouble. She's so desperate that she decides to ask God for help. She begins to pray...' God, please help me. I've lost my business and if I don't get some money, I'm going to lose my house as well. Please let me win the lottery.' Lottery night comes and somebody else wins it. Edna again prays.... 'God, please let me win the lottery! I've lost my business, my house and I'm going to lose my car as well.' Lottery night comes and Edna still has no luck. Once again, she prays, 'My God, why have you forsaken me?? I've lost my business, my house, and my car. My children are starving. I don't often ask you for help and I have always been a good servant to you. PLEASE, just let me win the lottery this one time so I can get my life back in order.' Suddenly there is a blinding flash of light as the heavens open and Edna is confronted by the voice of God Himself: 'Edna, meet Me halfway on this. Buy a ticket.'

## EARLY MUSIC SEASON AT ST MARY'S CHURCH WARWICK

The annual winter season of early music concerts at St Mary's Church Warwick dates back to 1996, when it was launched by Warwick Arts Society, with an Arts Council grant. Richard Phillips continued to programme and run it, following the launch of Leamington Music in 2006. Over those twenty four years many leading international groups and musicians have contributed, making it one of the most prestigious series in Britain.

The 2019/20 season puts the emphasis on singing with music ranging over six hundred years from Hildegard of Bingen and Machaut to masters of Spanish baroque. The season opens on 8 October when Owain Park returns with the Gesualdo Six, the group having been invited back immediately, following their rapturously received debut in Warwick in January last year. The core of their new programme *Music of the Heavenly Spheres* is sacred renaissance polyphony, but there are surprises in store too.

The UK's premier female voice early music ensemble, Musica Secreta, coming direct from the Brighton Early Music Festival, returns on 12 November for its third visit to Warwick, the last time having thrilled our audience with a large scale music drama based on Sarah Dunant's *Secret Hearts*. That was set in a 16<sup>th</sup> century convent in Ferrara and this time, joined by girl choristers from the Choir of St Mary's, we move to other convents in Italy to make further musical discoveries.

The annual Christmas Concert is given by our most regular visiting group, Stile Antico. This is on 10 December when we will enjoy *A Spanish Nativity*, a programme that the twelve singers gave in Seville earlier this year. The sumptuous polyphony is mixed with joyous folk dances and as always for this event, there is mulled wine and mince pies in the interval.

In the New Year, the series re-starts with the one mainly instrumental concert of the season, when the Gonzaga Band takes us back on 28 January, to Venice in an extra-ordinary year, 1629. On 18 February, Dame Emma Kirkby who has made over the years a good number of appearances in St Mary's, returns with her group of young singers to give a programme of Dowland and his contemporaries. The season

ends on 24 March when The Orlando Consort offers a new programme *Guillaume de Machaut: Portrait of a Genius*. Machaut, who was born and died in Reims, lived 1300 to 1377 and was the most famous and influential composer of his time in Europe.

Tickets for all these concerts are available at the Gift Shop in St Mary's and at Visit Warwick in the Court House. You can book online on [www.royalspacentreandtownhall.co.uk](http://www.royalspacentreandtownhall.co.uk) or call 01926 334418. If you buy a subscription to all six concerts for best seats, it will cost £122 and you will save £22. It can be purchased through the Leamington Music office at Northgate Warwick CV34 4JL. For this and other information about Leamington Music, please email [richard@leamingtonmusic.org](mailto:richard@leamingtonmusic.org) or call 01926 497000.

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## FASCINATING FACTS ABOUT ST. MARK'S BASILICA, VENICE



St. Mark's Basilica is one of the most-visited sights in Venice, and a must-see on any traveller's Italy itinerary! But with a history that stretches all the way back to the 9th century A.D., it's also a church with a *lot* of interesting stories and legends behind it. Here are six of the most fascinating facts about St. Mark's Basilica!

The first St. Mark's Basilica was built on this spot in the 9th century to house very sacred relics—relics that had been stolen! In 828, merchants from Venice stole the body of St. Mark the Evangelist, one of the four Apostles, from Alexandria, Egypt. According to the legend, they sneaked his remains past the (Muslim) guards by hiding them under layers of pork in barrels! While at sea, a storm almost drowned the graverobbers and their precious cargo, it's said that St. Mark himself appeared to the captain and told him to lower the sails. The ship was saved, and the merchants said they owed their safety to the miracle. The entire story is pictured on the 13th-century mosaic above the left door as you enter the basilica. There are more than 8,000 square meters of mosaic in St. Mark's Basilica, enough mosaic to cover over 1.5 football pitches! The mosaics were done over 8 centuries, mostly in gold, and the result is astonishing.

Enter the basilica at different times of day to see how the light makes the colours, and scenes, look different.

Just another example of the sheer size, and amount of amazing things in St. Mark's is the number of columns. There are more than 500 columns and capitals in the basilica, and most are Byzantine, dating between the 6th and 11th centuries. Some classical, 3rd-century capitals are mixed in, too!

The Fourth Crusade, in particular, gave St. Mark's Basilica a windfall. After all, this was the Crusade that ended, in 1204, with the conquest of Constantinople (modern-day Istanbul). The result? A lot of treasure was shipped to Venice, and installed in St. Mark's Basilica—including four bronze horses, icon of the Madonna Nicopeia, enamels of the Golden Altar-piece, relics, crosses, chalices, and patens!

Forget the glittering gems at the Tower of London: The Royal Family has nothing on St. Mark's Basilica! The Pala d'Oro, a Byzantine altar screen of gold, is studded with hundreds of gems—literally. They include 1,300 pearls, 300 emeralds, 300 sapphires, 400 garnets, 100 amethysts, plus rubies and topazes.



The almost 100 meters campanile of St. Mark's dates back to the 9th century... but it had to be rebuilt in 1903. The reason? It collapsed! It had been reworked in the 16th century, and apparently not that well: It collapsed on July 14, 1902. (To be fair, it had survived several earthquakes before that!). Although it buried the Basilica's balcony in rubble, fortunately, the church itself was saved. But the incident was embarrassing enough.

From 1903 to 1912, the belltower was rebuilt exactly as it had been... except with better, somewhat safer techniques!

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## THE EVERLASTING CIRCLE

With the passage of time, seasonal observances wax and wane. Even food habits come and go. What happened to Frumenty and God Cakes? Hot cross buns for example, once confined to a few days' exposure, appear on supermarket shelves for weeks, even months at a stretch. The end of harvest meant 'all the jollity and merriment over the cutting of the



last sheaf, the last load home and the harvest home feast', wrote Stanton. 'There were two of these, the second called "Little Harvest Home", being held when all the ricks were safely hatched.

Michaelmas Day (29 September) marked the end of the farming year and the beginning of the mop season. 'In the Vale of the Red Horse somewhere about Michaelmas Day sundry farm waggons may be seen at intervals piled high with articles of domestic furniture with the rustic children seated upon the top. These are the belongings of the hired labourers whose term of service being ended at one farm is removing to another. If the peasant walking at the horse's head be questioned as to his journey at so early an hour in the morning he will say, 'We be rimmin' to Tysoe, sir. Our turn's done at Radway, un' we'm obliged to get off the ground afore the dag's (dew) dry'. Thus wrote Morley in 1900. Birmingham Onion Fair was held in September.

Mops, Runaway Mops and fairs continued. Candle auctions used to be held at the beginning of October at Warton, near Polesworth. The letting of roadside grazing rights was involved, and 'the bidding for each lot commenced with the lighting of a bit of candle about a quarter of an inch long. He who was last in when the light went out became the purchaser.' At one time the prices of hay, fodder and corn used to be proclaimed at the Warwick Quarter Sessions during Michaelmas Term. Schoolboys, as well as lawyers, have such a term, and at Warwick School by ancient tradition the Town Crier calls 'to bring a message from the Mayor of Warwick asking the Headmaster to grant the school half holiday. This half holiday is always granted and nowadays is absorbed into our Michaelmas Term half-term break':

*He comes with tricorne hat and red coat and arrives at my house at a time arranged. At that time 950 boys of the school are gathered together in the Chapel quadrangle about a hundred yards away. The Senior Prefect collects the Town Crier and takes him to the boys, when the official part of his visit really begins. The words used thereafter are traditional. The Town Crier asks 'whoever is chief among you' to take him to the Headmaster's lodging. He makes this request at the end of a formal statement of greetings from the Mayor and Councillors of Warwick to the school and explains in that statement that he has been sent to ask for the half holiday. The Senior Prefect brings him to my study, the request is granted, the Town Crier returns to the boys and his statement of the half holiday is received with cheers, which are followed by cheers for the Mayor and Councillors of Warwick. All this takes about ten minutes. The boys then dismiss to their lessons and the Town Crier is taken round the*

*school by the Senior Prefect and his deputy. The result of his visit to each classroom is that he returns about half an hour later to my study with his tricorne hat filled with coins, and just occasionally he needs a reserve container.*

So wrote the then headmaster, Mr Pat Martin, in 1975.

In Warwick, the beating of the bounds of the parish of St Mary's used to be in October, with schoolboys - presumably not from Warwick School – ceremonially enlisted to help their memories. The occasion described on 19 October 1943 was a curious mixture of solemnity and high jinks:

*The vicar of St Mary's, the Revd J Boudier, after reading some prayers in the church, might have been seen proceeding, accompanied by his curate, churchwardens, overseers, vestry clerk, and several parishioners, to St Peter's Chapel, and from thence across the road to the Castle wall, over which three boys went across the drying ground, and again over the wall into Mill Street. Below the mill, some of the party got into a boat, and proceeded down the river Avon, until they came to the boundary in that direction, and then went across fields and roads until they came to the Birmingham road, and from thence into the Saltisford, where they finished for that day. At various places halts had to be made, when collects, psalms, epistle, gospel, and other portions of Bible or Prayer book were read, trees and posts were marked, and certain vagaries indulged in, such as throwing someone into a brook, or cutting a cross in the ground, on which some boy stood on his head. The next day the procession, after prayers in Church, went to the Saltisford, and thence by Old Park, Fern Hill, Rounsill lane, until they came round to the Priory, across the grounds of which they came over the wall into Oil-Mill lane (now Priory road), and then over the wall into Dr Landor's garden, and over some more walls finishing up by going through the parlour window of the house between Landor House and the East gate, into Smith Street*

It seems that the last occasion when St Mary's parish bounds were beaten in this way was in 1870. At Hallowe'en a form of divination took place. After a game of apple-bobbing, the winner peeled an apple into one long ribbon and threw it over their left shoulder. On landing it was supposed to form the initials of one's future wife or husband!

*From Folklore of Warwickshire – Roy Palmer*

# NEVER A CROSSWORD!

	1		2		3				4		5	
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9					10							
		11			12				13			
	14											
15					16							
											17	
18			19				20		21			
22						23						

## ACROSS

- 6. High priest ordering an Asian about. (7)
- 7. Part of church used by AA? (5)
- 9. Monk has part of rosary, we hear. (4)
- 10. It's sleep-inducing letters. (8)
- 11. Cleric is part of rabbi's hopefulness. (6)
- 13. God awards degree to a student. (4)
- 15. Holy ladies! Not one to say in front of a cardinal! (4)
- 16. Greek character delayed by Roman governor. (6)
- 18. Cast iron solution for choristers? (8)
- 21. Locate Isaac's son in Roget's Thesaurus. (4)
- 22. Prophets see king with small result. (5)
- 23. Planetary ring for telling the time? (7)

## DOWN

- 1. Rent asunder after I bury someone? (5)
- 2. Left something sort of in theirs. (8)
- 3. Bad boy on church, say. (4)
- 4. Get the hots about wafers? (4)
- 5. Isaac's wife. Get her beak out! (7)
- 8. Soldier leaves Paradise and gets soft with novice – get rid! (6)
- 12. Pharaoh is one without change. (6)
- 13. Head, best playing pool. (8)
- 14. Copper assesses priests! (7)
- 17. Daughter of David seen in the West Country? (5)
- 19. Heard to get bored in ancient city. (4)
- 20. Fishy-sounding essence. (4)

# THOUGHT FOR FOOD

## Chicken cacciatore

The classic Italian 'hunter's stew' gets a healthy makeover, with low-fat chicken breasts, prosciutto and a rich herby tomato sauce

### Ingredients

- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 3 slices prosciutto, fat removed, chopped
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- 2 sage sprigs
- 2 rosemary sprigs
- 4 skinless chicken breasts (550g total weight), preferably organic
- 150ml dry white wine
- 400g can plum tomatoes in natural juice
- 1 tbsp tomato purée
- 225g chestnut mushrooms, quartered or halved if large
- small handful chopped flat-leaf parsley, to serve



Preparation time: 15 minutes

Cooking time: 50 minutes

Serves 4

Heat the oil in a large non-stick frying pan. Tip in the prosciutto and fry for about 2 mins until crisp. Remove with a slotted spoon, letting any fat drain back into the pan, and set aside. Put the onion, garlic and herbs in the pan and fry for 3-4 mins.

Spread the onion out in the pan, then lay the chicken breasts on top. Season with pepper and fry for 5 mins over a medium heat, turning the chicken once, until starting to brown on both sides and the onion is caramelising on the bottom of the pan. Remove the chicken and set aside on a plate. Raise the heat, give it a quick stir and, when sizzling, pour in the wine and let it bubble for 2 mins to reduce slightly.

Lower the heat to medium, return the prosciutto to the pan, then stir in the tomatoes (breaking them up with your spoon), tomato purée and mushrooms. Spoon 4 tbsp of water into the empty tomato can, swirl it around, then pour it into the pan. Cover and simmer for 15-20 mins or until the sauce has thickened and reduced slightly, then return the chicken to the pan and cook, uncovered, for about 15 mins or until the chicken is cooked through. Season and scatter over the parsley to serve.

# THE GILDED LEAVES OF AUTUMN

I hear the gilded leaves of autumn sigh  
As underneath the oak I seek repose,  
As if they sense that death is drawing nigh  
For sunlight wanes and veins begin to close.

How often have I sat beneath your shade  
And bared the deepest secrets of my heart,  
You were our witness when true vows were made  
And through the passing years our love did chart.

Sweet moments cherished here bring healing balm  
And rescue me from sorrow's deep despair.  
I close my eyes and feel a sense of calm  
As echoes of shared laughter fill the air.

For there in my mind's eye I see your face,  
My sweetheart, husband, long-abiding friend,  
Pretend that I still feel your warm embrace,  
For such a loss is hard to comprehend.

Yet just as gilded leaves of autumn fall  
The cycle of our life must run its course.  
And happy is the soul who at the call  
Is rooted in love's deepest, purest source.

*Wendy Watson*



## SAY HELLO TO LUCY



September sees the arrival of our new organ scholar, Lucy Morrell, who comes to Warwick from her previous job as organ scholar at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle where she regularly accompanies the choir at Evensong as well as being involved with the training of the choristers. During her time at Windsor Lucy has had the opportunity to play pre-service music for two Royal Weddings. Prior

to starting at Windsor, Lucy was the organ scholar for three years at Girton College, Cambridge, where she read music. Whilst at Cambridge she took weekly rehearsals for the Comberton branch of the Cambridgeshire Choral Society and also enjoyed being involved with musical theatre as well as regularly accompanying singers and instrumentalists for recitals.

After beginning the organ at the age of 14, she later became the organ scholar at her local Parish Church in Kemsing where she has been a chorister since the age of 8. Lucy has studied organ with Anne Page, Henry Fairs, David Flood and Margaret Phillips. She has attended masterclasses with Stephen Farr, John Riley and Pieter Dirksen as well as participating on courses in France, receiving tuition from Alexis Droy and Jean-Luc Perrot in Moulins and Souvigny. At the start of 2017 Lucy became an Associate of the Royal College of Organists and additionally gained her ATCL diploma on piano in April 2015. Aside from music Lucy enjoys running and volunteers at a local Windsor Brownie pack, something she hopes she'll still be able to continue next academic year!

Lucy is very excited about moving to Warwick to take up her new post at St. Mary's and Graduate Music Assistant at King's High. She is really looking forward to working with the choir in this beautiful church and playing the organ for services, as well as working with the probationers and students at the school and completing a teaching qualification during the next two years.

## **Autumn 2019 Lunchtime Recitals**

**Fridays at 1:15pm**  
**Collegiate Church of St Mary, Warwick**

6 September	Mark Swinton (Organ - St Mary's, Warwick)
20 September	Daniel Gárdonyi (Organ - Frankenberg, Germany)
4 October	David Price (Organ - Portsmouth Cathedral)
18 October	<i>No recital – Warwick Mop Fair</i>
8 November	John Wyatt (Organ - St James, Bushey)
22 November	Ed Jones (Organ - Bradford Cathedral)
6 December	Jacob Lee (Double bass – Warwick School)
20 December	Mark Swinton (Organ - St Mary's, Warwick)

**Admission free, retiring collection**

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## **AND FINALLY ..... CROSSWORD SOLUTION**

**ACROSS** 6 Ananias 7 Tower 9 Bede 10 Epistles 11 Bishop 13 Baal  
15 Nuns 16 Pilate 18 Cantoris 21 Esau 22 Seers 23 Sundial

**DOWN** 1 Inter 2 Inherits 3 Nave 4 Host 5 Rebekah 8 Dispel 12 Hophra  
13 Bethesda 14 Curates 17 Tamar 19 Tyre 20 Soul

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## **Who's Where in The Warwick Team**

Contacts in our partner churches in the Warwick Team include:

### **All Saints**

Revd Diane Thompson (Team Vicar)

492073

### **St Nicholas**

Revd Linda Duckers (Team Vicar)

496209

### **St Paul's**

Revd Jonathan Hearne (Team Vicar)

419814

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John Luxton (Church Warden)	07740 046718
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Godfrey Hill (Deputy Church Warden)	02476 464432
Bell Ringers	492783
1 <sup>st</sup> Warwick St Mary's Rainbows/Brownies/Guides	403185
Choir	403940
Friends of St Mary's Choir	07549 534339
Collegium	498851
St Mary's Scholars	403940
Flowers	857351
Church Guides	403940
Gift Shop	403940
Sunday School	312861
Friends of St Mary's Church	419991
St Mary's Guild of Servers	07713 997769
Sidesmen	882207
Churches Together in Warwick	428420
Guild of Ex Choristers <a href="mailto:gec@stmaryswarwick.org.uk">gec@stmaryswarwick.org.uk</a>	740181
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## **Church Council Members**

The Rector, the Reader and Church Wardens	
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Grahame Edmonds	
Alan Faulkner	
Desmond Jack	495795
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